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**RFP #8711**

**Inquiries Submitted Regarding with South Department of Transportation (SDDOT) Responses**

1. The RFP indicates potential bidder interviews will be held on June 25, 2023. Has the DOT decided on a format for such interviews? In other words, would such interviews be conducted in-person or virtually?

*SDDOT Response: RFP indicates demonstrations, presentation, discussions will be conducted if deemed necessary after review of proposals. The format will be determined if interviews are deemed necessary.*

2. Should the bidder budget for any on-site project meetings or presentations (beyond any associated with the “public engagement” element)?

*SDDOT Response: Proposal must include means and methods to complete the scope and deliverables defined in the RFP.*

3. Please confirm there is no pre-bid scheduled for this procurement.

*SDDOT Response: No, there will not be a pre-bid meeting.*

4. Does the DOT have a database of human services organizations and/or other stakeholder organizations it wishes the selected consultant to engage during the course of the proposed project?

*SDDOT Response: SDDOT does not have a database of human service agencies. SDDOT does have some stakeholder organization information.*

5. Has the DOT established a DBE participation goal for this project?

*SDDOT Response No, SDDOT aspires projects to have DBE participation through race neutral measures.*

6. Will the DOT accept out-of-state DBE certification?

*SDDOT Response: No, DBE must be SDDOT certified.*

7. Has the DOT established proposal/interview evaluation criteria? And if so, relative weight for such criteria?

*SDDOT Response: Evaluations will be based on section 1.6*

8. Is a copy of the prior Statewide Intercity Bus Study project report available for review?

SDDOT Response: No, a prior Statewide Intercity Bus Study does not exist.

9. The RFP for this study does not identify any number or timing for specific meetings except for an initial meeting with the project's technical oversight panel, nor does it set any specific expectations regarding public outreach. If there are any specific expectations regarding the number of meetings, advisory groups, or presentations could you provide them? Also, are virtual meetings permitted? Or hybrid meetings in which the option of virtual participation is provided? Thank you for any additional guidance you can provide.

SDDOT Response: No specific timing or number of meetings are specified in the RFP; however, note in section 1.3 the expectations of the project duration. The proposer must include in proposal what the process and approach would be to meet the scope and deliverables. The proposal must demonstrate that sufficient data collection will be used to meet the RFP requirements. The proposal should include proposed meeting formats to meet the requirements. In addition, formats of meeting can be discussed with SDDOT throughout the project.

10. I have a question regarding RFP Number #8711. Task 3 of the RFP involves collecting data for intercity bus providers in South Dakota, including fleet size, facilities, number of employees, operating costs, revenues, grant funding, and fuel purchased in South Dakota. I am wondering about the level of detail that is expected and the importance for each of these. Data reported in the NTD for intercity bus carriers is very limited. Bus providers would need to be contacted to collect this information, and the level of detail that they collect and are able to share is unknown. For a company that operates in multiple states, such as Jefferson Lines, do you expect all the data, including fleet size, number of employees, fuel purchases, etc., to be specific to their service in South Dakota? If some of these data cannot be collected, how detrimental would it be to the project?

SDDOT Response: The data expected to be obtained in section 3 task 3 is South Dakota specific. The goal of section 3 is to identify active resources for intercity bus services. This data is a key component to do the analysis and complete a task of the scope of work. If RFP objectives cannot be met see section 5.1.3 and section 5.1.5